

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement(s) filed 10/6/2008 has been considered.

The preliminary amendments to claims 1-14 are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record by Nguyen et al. (US 2005/0237036) (hereinafter referred to as Nguyen) teaches an electric switch unit comprising an input and neutral terminal (see figures 29 and 23); an output terminal (see figure 23); a load switch (55) connected between the live and load terminals and a timer means (35, figure 22) for controlling the load switch.

However, Nguyen fails to teach a bypass detector circuit connected in parallel across the load switch wherein current flow through the detector circuit closes the load switch after a time delay and maintains the switch in the closed position. Unlike applicant's invention, Nguyen teaches a

"bypass detector circuit" (current sensor) (see ref# 50, figure 23) wherein current is sensed (via "Current Sensing TXFMR") and operates photo-coupler 54. This thereby activates switch 55

however the current sensing circuit is not in parallel with the load switch as claimed in claim 1 of applicants invention. Applicant's "bypass detector circuit" is taught as a bulb which activates a

Art Unit: 2836

photo-sensor, similar to Nguyen however applicant's "bypass detector circuit" is in parallel with the load switch.

Bircher (US 5,642,004) teaches a power supply device comprising a switch (7, see figure 2) parallel a opto-coupler switch (4) however this circuit differs from applicant's invention in that the switch (4) is not a load switch connecting the load to the power supply rather the switch (4) is used to signal the voltage detector.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Borkan (US 4,272,687)
- Tallman et al. (US 2003/0169545)
- Spencer et al. (US 5,875,087)
- Nakagawa (US 2003/0214819)
- Nguyen et al. (US 7,394,397)
- Rodenberg, III et al. (US 2005/0060107)
- Oravetz et al. (US 5,315,531)

Art Unit: 2836

- Freudenberg (Charger Control for the Hot Water Tank)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Cavallari whose telephone number is 571-272-8541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on (571)272-2800 x36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Sherry/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2836

/Daniel Cavallari/

October 8, 2008